

Message Text

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21

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAJ-01 TRSE-00

/054 W

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R 271535Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECDEF WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4787

USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS THE HAGUE 05763

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP, NL (SCHLESINGER, JAMES)

SUBJ: DUTCH NEWSPAPER INTERVIEW REQUEST

1. EACH YEAR, ONE DECEMBER ISSUE OF DUTCH NATIONAL DAILY HET VRIJE VOLK (LEFTIST, 167,339) FEATURES FOREIGN AFFAIRS WRAPUP IN WHICH PROMINENT INTERNATIONAL FIGURES ARE INTERVIEWED FOR THEIR VIEWS ON MOST CRUCIAL ISSUES OF PAST YEAR. THIS YEAR PAPER WILL FOCUS ON MIDDLE EAST, GREECE TURKEY, FOOD SHORTAGES AND EAST-WEST/NATO. FOR FINAL CATEGORY, BERT STOOP, DIPLOMATIC/FOREIGN EDITOR OF NEWSPAPER WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT IDENTICAL LISTS OF QUESTIONS TO SECDEF SCHLESINGER AND DUTCH MINDEF VREDELING FOR THEIR VIEWS. RESULTING ANSWERS WOULD BE PRINTED WITHOUT EDITORIAL COMMENT, AND SUBJECT TO WORD COUNT LIMITATION (SEE PARA 2) WOULD BE UNEXCISED.

2. FOLLOWING IS STOOP'S LIST QUESTIONS. HE ASKS THAT SECRETARY BRIEFLY RESPOND TO AS MANY OR FEW AS HE WISHES, AIMING FOR A TOTAL OF UNDER 200-250 WORDS. IF SECRETARY AGREES, STOOP WOULD NEED BY NLT DEC 18.

A. THIS YEAR NATO WAS UNABLE TO PREVENT A SERIOUS CONFLICT BETWEEN TWO OF ITS MEMBERS--GREECE AND TURKEY. DID THE

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CONSEQUENCES, ESPECIALLY GREECE'S DECISION TO QUIT THE

MILITARY ALLIANCE, WEAKEN THE STRENGTH OF NATO?

B. WILL THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION ON THE CONTROL OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS INCREASE THE NECESSITY OF A STRONGER CONVENTIONAL ARMAMENT?

C. WHAT WILL BE THE MOST IMPORTANT TASK OF THE EUROPEAN NATO-ALLIES IN THE COMING YEAR?

D. DO YOU THINK EUROPEAN MEMBER OF NATO IS STILL CONVINCED OF

-THE NEED FOR DEPENDENCY ON THE MILITARY LEADERSHIP OF THE UNITED STATES,

-THE MENACE OF THE COMMUNIST WORLD,

-THE NEED FOR CLOSER ATLANTIC COOPERATION?

E. WHAT WOULD, IN YOUR OPINION, BE THE WORST THING THAT COULD HAPPEN TO NATO IN 1975?

F. WHAT WOULD BE YOUR MOST AUDACIOUS DREAM?

3. WE ARE IN FAVOR OF THIS REQUEST, AND HOPE IT MEETS WITH SECDEF'S APPROVAL. WHILE VRIJE VOLK'S LEFTIST PERSUASION HAS OVER THE YEARS MEANT A GENERALLY CRITICAL ATTITUDE TOWARDS MUCH OF U.S. FOREIGN POLICY, BERT STOOP'S COLUMN IS MUCH MORE MODERATE--PARTICULARLY IN QUESTIONS RE CONTINUED NEED FOR NATO DEFENSE OF WESTERN EUROPE. WE THEREFORE BELIEVE THIS IS GOOD PLATFORM FOR DIRECT STATEMENT OF U.S. VIEWS TO SEGMENT OF DUTCH POPULACE THAT DOES NOT OFTEN HEAR THEM. APPRECIATE ADVICE SOONEST IF PROJECT APPROVED OR DISAPPROVED. GOULD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974THEHA05763
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740345-0357
From: THE HAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974116/aaaaaemr.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 NOV 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 NOV 2002 by MorefiRH>; APPROVED <26 NOV 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DUTCH NEWSPAPER INTERVIEW REQUEST
TAGS: OVIP, NL, (SCHLESINGER, JAMES)
To: DOD
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005